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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The War

EXCHANGE OF AMERICAN AND GERMAN NATIONALS

[Released to the press February 15]

On February 15 the motorship *Gripsholm* left New York for Lisbon under safe-conduct from all the belligerents. It is carrying 18 members of the former French diplomatic and consular establishments in the United States, 26 German consular officials with their wives and families who came into the custody of the United States during military operations in North Africa, a German consular officer and wife taken in Italy, and several hundred German nationals who entered the United States in 1942 from certain of the other American republics en route to Germany but who were unable to continue their voyage at that time. Other passengers include about 375 German nationals being repatriated on humanitarian grounds because of illness or other special circumstances and 131 seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, including 14 from Canada, who are being repatriated under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

On its return voyage from Lisbon the *Gripsholm* will bring back to the United States the staff of the former American Embassy at Vichy and of the American consular offices in the former unoccupied zone of France, together with certain newspaper correspondents and relief workers, numbering in all about 156, as well

as 95 officials of certain of the other American republics, all of whom since early in 1943 have been held in Germany. Some members of these groups who for illness or other reasons were unable to join them in Germany are expected to be added to the official party as it passes through France.

In addition to the foregoing groups the *Gripsholm* is expected to embark at Lisbon for return to the United States about 375 nationals of the United States and of the other American republics whom the German Government reciprocally is releasing for repatriation on humanitarian grounds, and a number of seriously sick and seriously wounded American prisoners of war who are being repatriated by the German Government in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The Department of State has not yet received information concerning the names of the persons to be included in these last two groups, as their selection will be made in Europe.

Lists of those being repatriated will be made public as soon as they are received.

On the voyage to Lisbon and return, the *Gripsholm* will carry Red Cross relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees as well as prisoner-of-war and civilian-internee mail.

RED CROSS AID TO AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE FAR EAST

[Released to the press by the American Red Cross February 13]

On February 13 the American Red Cross in Washington, D. C., issued the following statement summarizing its efforts to get relief to American war prisoners in Japanese hands:

The American Red Cross has spared and will continue to spare no effort to effect Japan's full

compliance with the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 and to establish a regular route for the shipment of supplies to prisoners of war and internees in the Far East. A chronological summary of steps which have been taken to date in this regard in full cooperation with the International Committee of the Red

Cross and all the national Red Cross societies of the United Nations directly involved, follows:

From December 7, 1941 to the end of January 1943, 167 cables were sent by the American Red Cross to Geneva, Switzerland, pertaining to the shipment of relief to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East and related subjects. Many of these cables dealt with mail and communications facilities, while others were concerned with the local procurement of supplementary relief supplies by means of cash from the American Red Cross.

As the Department of State has recently pointed out, although Japan is not a party to the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, the Department, immediately after the outbreak of hostilities in the Far East, obtained from the Japanese Government a commitment to apply the provisions of the convention to American prisoners of war, and, so far as adaptable, to civilian internees held by Japan. Following this, the Japanese Government approved the appointment of International Committee delegates for permanent station in Japan, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. Despite repeated representations by the American Red Cross, however, the Japanese Government has yet to approve the appointment of an International Committee delegate to function in the Philippines or even to visit the islands.

On December 31, 1941 the International Committee was asked to obtain Japanese approval for a relief ship to carry supplies to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East. When the American Red Cross was informed by the Committee that negotiations to that end were in progress, the *Kanangoora*, a Swedish ship then berthed at San Francisco, was chartered and loaded in the summer of 1942 with Canadian and American Red Cross supplies valued at over one million dollars. In August 1942 the Japanese authorities finally refused safe-conduct for this ship and stated that no neutral vessel would be permitted in waters controlled by Japan. The charter of the *Kanangoora* consequently was canceled and the ship unloaded.

While these negotiations were under way the Japanese agreed to accept relief supplies shipped on diplomatic exchange vessels. The *Gripsholm*, which was about to sail from New York on its first exchange voyage in June 1942, was accordingly loaded with more than 100 tons of American Red Cross supplies and an equal amount of Canadian, which eventually reached Yokohama in August 1942. It was expected that a second exchange would follow immediately upon the return of the *Gripsholm*, and in September 1942 a second cargo was loaded. Because of the delay in concluding the exchange negotiations, however, these supplies were discharged from the *Gripsholm* early in 1943.

Fully realizing that diplomatic exchange ships alone were at best nothing more than a temporary expedient, and that a regular route should be established for the flow of relief supplies to United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, the American Red Cross, through the State Department and the International Committee, undertook a series of steps in an effort to reach some understanding with the Japanese authorities as to how this might be brought about.

It was suggested in turn (1) that a neutral port be selected to which a neutral ship might carry relief supplies from the United States, the supplies to be picked up at this neutral port by Japanese ships; (2) that the American Red Cross turn over to the Japanese a fully loaded ship in mid-Pacific or at any other point acceptable to the Japanese; (3) that supplies be flown from the United States to a neutral point for relay to Japan; (4) that, if the necessary arrangements could be made with the Soviet Union, supplies be shipped on Soviet vessels to Vladivostok and then transshipped to Japanese-controlled territory.

The most far-reaching proposal was made in February 1943 when the American Red Cross, with the approval of the United States Government, offered to furnish to the Japanese Red Cross a ship to carry relief supplies to the Far East. The proposal then made was that a fully loaded ship be turned over to the Japanese at

any point specified by them—even in mid-Pacific if necessary—from there be manned by a Japanese crew, and, after the distribution of the supplies, be returned empty. The Japanese crew would then pick up a second fully loaded ship and the process would be repeated.

The Japanese never even replied to this proposal. Instead, in April 1943 they suggested that they would consider accepting supplies sent by Soviet ships from a West Coast port to Vladivostok. The State Department secured the approval of the Soviet Union to this suggestion, and at the end of May 1943 the State Department advised the Japanese of the Soviet agreement, at the same time asking them to specify the means they proposed to use in getting the supplies from Vladivostok to the camps. While awaiting the Japanese answer, the United States Government asked the Russians to start carrying supplies to Vladivostok at once. In late August the Soviet Union agreed to carry 1,500 tons of supplies monthly on Soviet ships to Vladivostok.

Although no definite agreement had been reached with the Japanese that supplies shipped to Vladivostok would be accepted by them and in due course be distributed to the prison camps, the American Red Cross and interested governmental agencies decided that, despite the risks involved, it was highly desirable to lose no more time in accumulating a stockpile of food, medicines, and clothing at the nearest point possible to the Far Eastern camps. The aim was to avoid any further delay in the distribution of supplies in the event of Japanese agreement. Consequently, some 1,500 tons of urgently needed supplies were assembled and shipped from the West Coast and are now warehoused in Vladivostok. Further substantial amounts are ready in this country for immediate shipment as soon as the Japanese begin accepting the supplies already in Vladivostok. While the actual movement of goods was taking place, a series of cables were sent through Geneva to the Japanese Red Cross urging a definite Japanese proposal for the distribution of the supplies. There has still been no definite plan from the Japanese side, but further steps to obtain a solu-

tion to this problem are receiving continuous consideration.

The second shipment of American relief supplies on diplomatic exchange vessels was made in September 1943. The *Gripsholm* then left New York with a cargo valued at over \$1,300,000, including 140,000 specially prepared 13-pound food packages, 2,800 cases of medical supplies, including drugs, surgical instruments, and dressings, 7 million vitamin capsules; and large quantities of clothing and comfort articles for men, women, and children. The entire cargo was transferred to the Japanese exchange vessel *Teia Maru*, which sailed eastward from Mormugão on October 21, 1943. About one half of these supplies, including 78,000 food parcels and 73 tons of drugs and medicine, were unloaded at Manila on November 8, 1943 for distribution to camps in the Philippines. About a week later several hundred tons were unloaded at Yokohama for distribution in Japan and elsewhere in the Far East.

American Republics

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

[Released to the press February 15]

A translation of the remarks of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, Señor Dr. Don Adrián C. Escobar, upon the occasion of the presentation of his letters of credence, February 15, follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to deliver to you the letters of credence with which my Government accredits me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the letters of recall of my distinguished predecessor; and in this circumstance it is a pleasure for me to transmit to you the sentiments of admiration and fraternal friendship which the Government and people of Argentina cherish toward the great Republic of the North, with which we have always been joined by spir-

itual, material, and moral bonds which time has consolidated to the point of their becoming indestructible.

The Argentine people has just been stirred to its innermost depths by two very grave occurrences: one of these, the tragic catastrophe of San Juan which cost many lives and enormous material destruction. That disaster furnished occasion for putting to the test once again the solidarity of feeling among the American nations, and I am pleased to repeat to Your Excellency the gratitude of my country for the part which your country had in that sincere and spontaneous gesture. The other is the categorical determination which my Government has taken, interpreting the desire of our people, to break off relations with Germany and Japan, in view of the seriousness of activities which wounded its most noble sentiments. The Argentine Government could not permit countries to which we are closely bound by traditional ties of friendship to be injured, since those activities not only infringed on the national sovereignty but compromised its foreign policy and attacked the security of the continent.

Argentina knows and feels that the destiny of America is her own destiny. This thought, Mr. President, which is a double imperative, historical and geographical, contains a high significance for the relations among the sovereign countries of America which act with rectitude—relations which cannot be altered in spite of the differences which may arise in the evaluation of some essential questions. They must be clarified and settled in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, since today, as yesterday and as tomorrow, the common objective cannot be other than the most complete reciprocal understanding. Thus ideas will be discussed, certain interests will for the moment be divergent, but over and above the occasional and ephemeral clash of ideas and interests is placed respect for the immutable principles of morality and justice.

My country does not, in any manner, practice isolation. It has maintained and will always maintain the necessity for the closest union among the peoples of America. Its history proclaims this. It does not seek benefits, nor

shares, nor advantages. It recognizes fully the rights of others and firmly maintains its own. It has an honorable and untarnished tradition: it loves peace and never soiled its name by any aggression; it submitted its fundamental questions to arbitration, it set up principles and doctrines universally recognized, and at congresses and conferences defined its policy with generous and broad concepts, which have been incorporated as juridical standards in the common patrimony of the nations of America.

We desire, Mr. President, that the legal gains achieved at the Pan American congresses be consolidated; that the solidarity sealed at Lima be a living reality. To this end we have proposed to the limitrophe countries, without the most remote political aim, the study and formation of customs unions for the better economic development of the countries, members of such unions, and the attainment of a higher standard of living for the populations concerned. And it is our keenest desire to leave the doors wide open to the whole continent to adhere to this regime, thereby converting to a harmonious reality the dreams of Washington, of Bolivar, of San Martín and so many great men of America.

The good-neighbor policy, which you initiated, Mr. President, found in my country a sympathetic echo and instantaneous welcome and, as you have said in speeches which are famous, it must be understood that this new policy of the United States has a permanent character. For our part, I need not assure you that we shall tend toward the permanence of this reciprocal good-neighborhood. We must all be good neighbors and, moreover, good and sincere friends.

From its first days as an independent nation Argentina practiced good-neighborliness and made of fraternity an article of faith: she made an offering of the blood of her sons and her well-being for other American peoples fighting on the fields of battle for most noble ideals and contributing to the freedom of half a continent.

When the peoples of America suffered misfortunes Argentina hastened to their aid with solicitude. But she did not limit her efforts to them but also offered her aid to distant and dis-

similar countries when they were passing through a difficult situation. Thus, Argentina will now be present to aid the countries which are suffering the horrors of war, carrying out her mission with Christian generosity and diligent zeal.

The Government of my country will contribute, within its means, to the great work of aid, reconstruction, and rehabilitation to take care of the disasters and calamities which are scourging the world.

I hope that you, Excellency, who know my country, which had the gratification of receiving you with cordial rejoicing, will offer me the necessary opportunities to the end that I may discharge my mission which is, without reservation, that of a true rapprochement with the United States, of increasing cooperation, of sincere understanding and loyal friendship.

Mr. President, in the name of the Argentine people and Government I formulate good wishes for the prosperity of the United States, and express their warm desire for your personal happiness.

The President's reply to the remarks of Señor Dr. Don Adrián C. Escobar follows:

MR. AMBASSADOR:

I am indeed happy to greet you and to receive the letters accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Government near the Government of the United States of America. I accept at the same time the letters of recall of your distinguished predecessor, Dr. Felipe Espil, who will be remembered by his many friends in this country with deep affection and high esteem. Dr. Espil during his many years of service in the United States labored devotedly and unceasingly to bring about a deeper understanding between our two Governments and peoples.

I thank you for your expression of the sentiments of admiration and friendship cherished by the Government and people of Argentina for the United States. Similar sentiments have traditionally characterized the attitude of the Government and people of this country for the

Argentine Republic. The two events referred to by you—namely, the disastrous earthquake at San Juan and the recent action of your Government in severing diplomatic relations with the Axis powers—have given rise to renewed demonstrations of that attitude.

The tragic loss of life which occurred at San Juan aroused feelings of deep sympathy here as well as a desire to be of assistance to the afflicted people of that region.

The action of the Argentine Government in severing relations with Germany and Japan and Axis satellites has been received with satisfaction by free people everywhere. The importance of this and other related matters connected with the eradication of subversive activities in the promotion of the security of the Western Hemisphere against the continuing aggressions of the enemies of our civilization is manifest.

These aggressions have taken manifold forms.

They have included espionage conducted under the auspices of the diplomatic missions of the Axis nations.

Industries producing for United Nations war purposes have been sabotaged by agents of the Axis powers.

All manner of subversive activities have been engaged in not only for the purpose of impeding the war effort of the United Nations but even in some cases with the object of overthrowing by violent means governments friendly to our common cause.

All of these activities would have involved the most serious peril to our common interests if they had not been combated by the energetic and united action of the American republics. With the decision of your Government to cooperate fully in promoting the security of the continent, the Axis is severely handicapped in its conduct of operations in this hemisphere.

I am pleased to express my whole-hearted agreement with your observations concerning the policy of the good neighbor. That policy not only has long-term implications of incalculable importance; it has also enabled the American republics in a time of serious peril and

grave threat to their independence to concert measures and take steps in unison for their common defense. I am confident that the people of the United States have adopted this policy as a part of their permanent political philosophy.

I am very happy to extend to you, Mr. Ambassador, a most cordial welcome and to assure you of my own desire and of the desire of the officials of this Government to render you every possible assistance in the fulfilment of your mission. I am pleased also to have this opportunity of extending through you my best wishes for the happiness and welfare of the people of Argentina.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM OTHER AMERICAN REPUBLICS

[Released to the press February 18]

Miss Maria Junqueira Schmidt of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has arrived in the United States as a guest of the Department of State. Miss Schmidt, who is a leader in the field of social welfare in Brazil and who is now planning her work as Director of the Cidade das Meninas, will visit similar institutions in the United States in order to make an extensive study of the educational methods and techniques which have been developed in this country.

The Far East

RETURN FROM CHINA OF UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISER

[Released to the press February 18]

Mr. Omar C. Bagwell of New York City has just returned from China, where he has served for the past year under the Department of State as a specialist in telecommunications. He traveled extensively in China inspecting existing lines and giving advice to the Ministry of Communications in regard to operational matters. He was also of assistance to the Ministry of Communications in connection with plans for the future development of China's long-distance

telephone system. Mr. Bagwell was well qualified for this work by his service of many years as a representative in Spain of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Mr. Bagwell was one of 21 specialists who have been made available to the Government of China by the Department of State to assist that Government in its prosecution of the war.

The Department

LIAISON WITH THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

On February 18, 1944 the Acting Secretary of State issued Departmental Order 1227, effective February 16, 1944, which reads as follows:

"Mr. George L. Warren is hereby designated Adviser on Refugees and Displaced Persons, in the Office of Wartime Economic Affairs, and Liaison Officer for the Department with the War Refugee Board established by Executive Order 9417 of January 22, 1944.

"All matters pertaining to the Department's participation in the work of the War Refugee Board shall be cleared through Mr. Warren, who shall coordinate all refugee matters of concern to the Department.

"Mr. Warren's routing symbol shall be WRB."

CHANGE IN TITLE AND SYMBOLS FOR OFFICE OF EASTERN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS

On February 17, 1944 the Acting Secretary of State issued Departmental Order 1226, effective February 15, 1944, which reads as follows:

"Title for Office of Eastern and African Affairs

"The title of the 'Office of Eastern and African Affairs', as stated in Departmental Order No. 1218, January 15, 1944, is hereby changed to read 'Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs'. The routing symbol of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs shall be NEA.

"Change in Divisional Symbols"

"The routing symbols for the Division of Near Eastern Affairs shall be NE, for the Division of Middle Eastern Affairs, ME, and for the Division of African Affairs, AF.

"Departmental Order No. 1218 is accordingly amended."

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

On February 14, 1944 the Acting Secretary of State issued Departmental Order 1224, effective February 11, 1944, which reads as follows:

"In addition to its responsibilities as set forth in Departmental Order No. 1218 of January 15, 1944, the Telecommunications Division shall have responsibility for the initiation and coordination of policy and action in matters pertaining to: (a) the international aspects of mail and telephone communications, motion pictures (other than responsibilities assigned to the Office of Public Information) and (b) liaison with the Post Office Department."

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

By Departmental Order 1223 of February 12, 1944, effective February 11, 1944, the Acting Secretary of State designated Mr. Charles A. Thomson, in addition to his responsibilities as Adviser to the Director of the Office of Public Information, as Acting Chief of the Division of Science, Education, and Art, and Mr. Willys R. Peck as a Special Assistant in the Office of Public Information.

The Foreign Service

CONSULATES

The American Consulate at Palermo, Sicily, was reopened for the transaction of public business on February 11, 1944.

Treaty Information

AGRICULTURE

Convention on the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences

Dominican Republic; Honduras

By a letter dated February 4, 1944, the Director General of the Pan American Union informed the Secretary of State that the Convention on the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, which was opened for signature at the Pan American Union on January 15, 1944, was signed for the Dominican Republic and Honduras on January 28, 1944.

The convention was signed on January 15, 1944 for the United States of America, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama, and for Cuba and Ecuador on January 20, 1944.

FOODSTUFFS

Agreement With the Dominican Republic

[Released to the press February 18]

On February 17 completion of an agreement whereby the entire exportable surplus of several Dominican foodstuffs will be sold exclusively to the United States Government through the Foreign Economic Administration in order to help meet shortages of food in the Caribbean and other areas, was announced jointly by the Dominican Government and the United States Department of State. The agreement is to extend to June 30, 1945.

The cooperative efforts of the Government of the Dominican Republic and of the Dominican food producers, resulting in increases of production at this critical time, are an important contribution to the total United Nations food-supply program and will add to the total supplies available for distribution to deficit areas. It will be of special value to Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands now largely dependent on exports of food from the United States.

Shipments of food from the Dominican Republic directly to these islands will result in saving of shipping. The Dominican Government is contributing substantially in this respect in providing a fleet of vessels for inter-island transportation of foodstuffs.

Under an agreement signed previously,¹ the Dominican Republic is selling exclusively to the United States for Caribbean areas its surplus of corn, rice, and peanut cake. The new understanding adds peanuts, red kidney beans, and live cattle to the list. In addition, the United States receives an option to buy butter, eggs, fresh vegetables, and fruits.

Legislation

Reports To Be Made to Congress: Letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmitting a list of reports which it is the duty of any officer or department to make to Congress. H. Doc. 406, 78th Cong. [List of reports to be made to Congress by the Secretary of State, pp. 3-4.] 31 pp.

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization:

Hearings Before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, 78th Cong., 2d sess., on H.J. Res. 192, a joint resolution to enable the United States to participate in the work of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization. February 9 and 10, 1944. ii, 50 pp.

S. Rept. 688, 78th Cong., on H.J. Res. 192 [favorable report]. 14 pp.

Supplemental Estimates of Appropriations for the State Department: Communication from the President of the United States transmitting supplemental estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year 1944, amounting to \$3,493,500, for the Department of State. H. Doc. 418, 78th Cong. 4 pp.

¹ Executive Agreement Series 350.

State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriation Bill, Fiscal Year 1945 (78th Cong., 2d sess.):

Hearings Before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, on the Department of State Appropriation Bill for 1945. ii, 326 pp.

H. Rept. 1149, on the State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriation Bill, Fiscal Year 1945. [Department of State, pp. 4-11.] 33 pp.

Supplemental Estimates of Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1944: Communication from the President of the United States transmitting supplemental estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year 1944, amounting in all to \$139,719,249. H. Doc. 424, 78th Cong. [Department of State, pp. 4 and 14.] 17 pp.

Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities: Report on the Axis Front Movement in the United States—Japanese Activities. (Appendix, Part VIII, Second Section.) viii, 148 pp.

Investigation of the National Defense Program: Additional Report of the Special Committee Investigating the National Defense Program pursuant to S. Res. 71, 77th Cong., and S. Res. 6, 78th Cong. (Report of Subcommittee Concerning Investigations Overseas; Section 1—Petroleum Matters). [Appendix VI, pp. 70-76, consists of a statement on "United States Foreign Petroleum Policy," which was prepared in the Department of State.] iv, 80 pp.

Publications

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Access to Alaska Highway: Agreement Between the United States of America and Canada—Effectuated by exchange of notes signed at Ottawa April 10, 1943. Executive Agreement Series 362. Publication 2057. 3 pp. 5¢.

Diplomatic List, February 1944. Publication 2060. ii, 120 pp. Subscription, \$1 a year; single copy, 10¢.

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